

MENTAL HEALTH AND DISABILITY SERVICES COMMISSION

June 18, 2020 - 9:30 am to 12:00 pm

Conference Call
MEETING MINUTES

MHDS COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT:

Betsy Akin
Diane Brecht
Teresa Daubitz
Janee Harvey
John Parmeter

Timothy Perkins
Maria Sorensen
Cory Turner
Richard Whitaker
Lorrie Young

MHDS COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT:

Shari O'Bannon
Russell Wood
Senator Jeff Edler

Senator Pam Jochum
Representative Joel Fry
Representative Scott Ourth

OTHER ATTENDEES:

Theresa Armstrong	MHDS, Bureau Chief Community Services & Planning
Kris Bell	Iowa Senate Democrats Caucus Staff
Emily Berry	OCA/NAMI
Lori Elam	Eastern Iowa Region
Natalie Ginty	LSA
John Hedgcoth	Amerigroup
Jan Heikes	MHDS, Community Services & Planning
Mae Hingtgen	East Central Region
Sandi Hurtado-Peters	Department of Management
Julie Jetter	MHDS, Community Services & Planning
Bill Kallestad	DD Council
Melissa Loehr	Northwest Iowa Care Connections Region
Katie Peck	Easter Seals
Julie Maas	MHDS, Community Services & Planning
Flora Schmidt	Iowa Behavioral Health Association
Adrienne Seusy	Legislative Services Agency
Jason Vermeer	Iowa Total Care
Kim Wilson	Northwest Iowa Care Connection Region

Welcome and Call to Order

John Parmeter called the meeting to order at 9:36 am and led introductions. Quorum was established with ten members present. John asked meeting participants to limit questions and comments to the end of presentations and the public until public comment.

Approval of Minutes

Betsy Akin made a motion to approve the May 21, 2020 meeting minutes. Lorrie Young seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mental Health and Disability Services Regions Annual Policies and Procedures Amendments

John said there were several Regions who are bringing amendments to their policies and procedures and the Commission will vote to either recommend DHS approve their amendments or recommend that DHS does not approve amendments.

Eastern Iowa Region

Lori Elam presented a summary of the changes made to their regional plan which included taking out attachments, changing the organizational structure and governance to match with Code requirements, and changes to their exception to policies.

There was discussion on the legislation that passed related to Regions and DHS authority and if there would be additional changes due to that legislation. Theresa Armstrong said that the legislation was just passed and the Governor hasn't signed it yet. Theresa said there needs to be further clarification before they would be able to answer questions about the legislation.

There was discussion on Eastern Iowa's waiting list and their funding related to complex service needs services and building a children's system.

Tim Perkins made a motion to recommend DHS accept Eastern Iowa's amended policies and procedures. Diane Brecht seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

East Central Region

Mae Hingtgen presented a summary of changes made to East Central Region's policies and procedures. Mae is a new CEO and wanted their plan to reflect the Region's philosophy and who they are as a Region. The changes made to the policies and procedures include aligning with Code requirements for governance, cost share which they also changed for adults, and encouraging the use of nontraditional providers.

There was discussion on East Central's plan to spend down their fund balance and working with providers on building services during the pandemic.

Richard Whitaker made a motion to recommend DHS accept East Central's amended policies and procedures. Lorrie Young seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Northwest Iowa Care Connections

Kim Wilson introduced Melissa Loehr as the new CEO for Northwest Iowa Care Connections and they presented a summary of changes to their regional plan. The changes reflect a change in counties to their region and changes related to Code requirements for a children's system including governance structure, weighted voting, and a children's coordinator.

There was discussion on weighted voting and how the county supervisors have additional responsibilities to their constituents and this best reflects that responsibility. There was discussion on the possibility of utilizing a waiting list and the region's plan for spending down their fund balance

Timothy Perkins made a motion to recommend DHS accept Northwest Iowa Care Connection's amended policies and procedures. Diane Brecht seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

South Central Behavioral Health Region

Jennifer Robbins presented a summary of changes to their policies and procedures and said their changes were related to Code requirements for building a children's system and complex

needs services. There was discussion on waiting lists and that their region will not have waiting lists.

Betsy Akin made a motion to recommend DHS accept South Central's amended policies and procedures. Diane Brecht seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Discussion on Test Iowa Sites Accessibility

John Parmeter said that Senator Jochum's letter went out to the Commission about concerns with individuals with disabilities being unable to access Test Iowa Sites due to lack of transportation. The Commission requested someone knowledgeable about the sites come talk to the Commission.

Discussion on Cost Increase Letter

John Parmeter presented a draft of the cost increase letter to the Commission. The Commission discussed adding language to reflect that the frontline direct care staff salaries are not supported by current Medicaid rates as people often forget about that and think about clinical staff when talking about salaries. John said those changes would be made the letter would come back to the Commission next month for the Commission to vote on it.

MHDS Update –Marissa Eyanson and Theresa Armstrong

Marissa Eyanson introduced herself as the new Division Administrator for MHDS Community and said that it was an intentional action to divide the MHDS Division into two and building community based services is a focus for the Department. Marissa explained DHS has a community integration plan for moving individuals out of the State Resource Centers and building community capacity. The Plan can be found [here](#).

Theresa Armstrong provided MHDS staffing updates. Julie Maas has accepted a position with MHDS Community managing the CMHC Block Grant contracts. Torie Keith who currently provides staff support to the Children's State Board will also be providing staff support to the Commission and Planning Council while Julie's position is being filled.

Theresa said she would start her update with grants related to COVID19. FEMA awarded Iowa a Presidential Disaster Declaration for individual assistance, limited to the Crisis Counseling Program-Individual Assistance Program. The grant is a 45 day grant and started immediately upon award. Karen Hyatt is managing the grant for MHDS and will be assessing the need and write for the regular services program grant to provide mental health outreach for an additional 185 days.

MHDS contracts with the following providers who have been able to employ over 100 staff during the first week of the grant.

- Abbe Center for Community Mental Health, Inc. – 24-hr warm-line (peer support specialists)
- Heartland Family Service
- Pathway Behavioral Health
- Iowa State University Extension – Agriculture supports and services – focused support line
- Centers for Disabilities and Development

MHDS is contracting with entities that have expertise in specific areas of focus to provide direct outreach and counseling and provide training and support to other outreach counselors. The special populations include:

- Agriculture, Rural communities,
- Domestic Violence,
- Homelessness,
- Children and families,
- Unemployed, including non-essential and essential staff
- Older Adults
- Developmental Disabilities
- Veterans and Military Families

Covid Recovery Iowa has made contact with 51 individuals and 160 group contacts. Pathways was able to hire a children's outreach counselor who has already started putting children's groups together via zoom.

Theresa said that IDPH and MHDS are working collaboratively on a SAMHSA grant related to emergency services for mental health and substance use disorder during COVID-19. The grant is \$2 million for 16 months and services are to begin by August. All services will be provided via telehealth or other virtual methods.

Theresa said that SAMHSA has awarded several certified community behavioral health clinic (CCBHC) grants. Some were awarded through CCBHC extension grants and some were awarded through money put into the CARES Act for CCBHC. Some of the providers will be contracting with additional agencies to provide the required services. The Iowa awards include:

- Abbe Center,
- Seasons Center,
- Eyerly-Ball,
- Berryhill,
- Hillcrest,
- Plains Area,
- Robert Young,
- Elevate Housing Foundation

Regional changes effective July 1, 2020 include Kossuth, Winnebago, and Worth joining Northwest IA Care Connections which leaves Emmet county an orphan. Due to the unusual year, DHS has assigned Emmet to stay with CSS Region and continue to work with them on meeting requirements.

Theresa said that the legislative session resumed and lasted for two weeks. Theresa said that DHS faired pretty well with the budget and got language needed for carryover funds and additional support for facilities. Theresa said that Polk County is able to move funds from other accounts for mental health services and will be working with DHS at where Medicaid and the state could be funding services instead of the Region. There was language that allows DHS to work with the Regions and provide technical assistance and allows DHS to do onsite reviews of Regions. There was also language that allows for counties in the CSS Region to form a new region if they meet regional requirements.

Additional legislation includes:

SF2261: behavioral health services in schools with very specific requirements and can be telehealth.

SF2360: an education bill about classroom clears and requirements, establishes therapeutic classrooms and requirements along with appropriation to roll out requirements and provide training.

Public Comment

None

The Commission took a break from 11:36am – 11:51am.

Commission Annual Report Committees

John Parmeter said that typically each committee meets separately but since the Commission has several new members he thought it would be easier to meet as a group to discuss information and data that would be helpful for writing their report. The Commission has requested to receive SFY19 and SFY20 sales tax information, waiver waiting list, regional expenditures, IACP workforce study, comparison information on Iowa's Medicaid rates and other states, and the regional dashboards.

Planning for Future Meetings

John asked if there is any information Commission members would like presented at future meetings and Timothy Perkins offered to do a presentation on how to access the VA for mental health services and benefits. Next month there will be a joint meeting with the Mental Health Planning Council as well as the regular scheduled Thursday meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 12:12pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Julie Maas.